

OEXA 83-0685

20 MAR 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

STAT

FROM: [REDACTED]

Acting Director, Office of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Concurrent Resolution to Support Establishment  
of a National Historical Intelligence Museum1. Action Requested: Sign the attached letter to  
Congressman Boland.STAT  
SIAI2. Background: HPSCI Chairman Boland has requested your  
comments on subject resolution. The DCI last dealt with the  
issue of a museum in April 1982 when he referred [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] museum promoter Martin G. Cramer to the trustees  
of the William J. Donovan Foundation for assistance. A copy of  
the backgrounder I gave him then is attached. The important  
point to note is that successive DCIs since 1969 have found it  
unwise to consider involving CIA in such a project.3. Recommendation: Sign the attached letter.

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Attachment

OEXA/PAD/CEW/scn/29 Mar 83/x7676

Distribution:

Orig. - addressee

1 - ExDir

1 - D/OEXA

1 - DD/OEXA

1 - O/DCI (Bross)

1 - C/History Staff [REDACTED]

1 - D/CSI/OTE [REDACTED]

1 - Curator, [REDACTED]

1 - C/LLD/OEXA [REDACTED]

1 - CAR/OEXA [REDACTED]

1 - ER 83-1619

1 - OEXA 83-0685

1 - PAD subj.

1 - CEW chrono.

1 - PAD hold

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STAT



Washington, D.C. 20505

4 April 1983

The Honorable Edward P. Boland  
Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Concurrent Resolution to support the establishment of a National Historical Intelligence Museum.

The support and recognition of the role of intelligence reflected in the Resolution is certainly gratifying. The intrinsic nature of the intelligence business, however, precludes us from advertising our activities. We would be hard pressed to come up with meaningful exhibit materials that were unclassified. Moreover, any Intelligence Community association with an exhibition of intelligence materials would send the wrong signal to our foreign friends, whose confidence in our ability to keep secrets we are trying to bolster. Finally, any Intelligence Community support of such a venture would invariably be perceived as domestic propaganda.

While we therefore appreciate the good intentions behind the Resolution, I am sure you will understand why we oppose establishing an intelligence museum and believe it would be unwise for the Intelligence Community to be associated in any way with such a project.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]  
John N. McMahon  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence